

Foreman's Report November 9 thru December 20, 2013

Since the last foreman's report we were obviously thrown into the throes of winter. The crew has been working steadily at snow removal for over two weeks now and we are still backed up with clean up. The 2013 PASER road ratings and 2013 road certification were completed and sent to the DOT by the December 15th deadline.

The crew assisted in removing the existing airport generator and preparing the area for the new generator, which has yet to arrive. After discussion with the crew, we decided that at this time the Town Hall should have the old generator. It was pointed out to me that the electric overhead doors out here can all be opened manually if necessary and we do already have a shut-off/switch-over for the electrical supply at the fuel pumps enabling a small generator to be hooked up to run the fuel pumps. However a prolonged power outage in cold weather could develop into a large headache if these buildings needed supplemental heat.

Industrial Zone

There was a good window of opportunity in early November and we were able to get a couple more days in, which enabled us to get a layer of gravel on half the new road. We also hauled quite bit of clay to build up a couple of lots, so without too much work next summer, two-four lots could be available. In order to complete the remaining lots many more yards of clay or fill will need to be hauled, but unless there is a demand for these future lots, I would recommend using clay and fill from ditching projects to complete the lots.

Big Bay Town Park

I have spent more time updating the website narrative and other aspects of the website to bring it up to speed, but this will remain an ongoing process. The park is not as nearly completed as I had planned for by this time, and I have been very frustrated in trying to get the subcontractors to complete aspects that were on the schedule to be done in October, but were not. My main concern is the electrical system for the campsites, which now will have to wait until the spring thaw. Administration will have to stay on top of this or the campsites will not be ready by Memorial Day, which will cause great consternation with campers that have reserved these sites, bringing many headaches for staff and loss of revenue. The last bathroom is not completed either, still waiting on plumbers and electricians, but I have been told this is going to get done as soon as weather moderates. So, Nelson Surveyors came to do the field work necessary to give us an as-built map of the park and a road description in order to incorporate the roads into the Town road system, but I have asked them to hold off until the spring as well. This is due to the fact that the electrician needs to install the electric pedestals, in order for the surveyor to pick up the correct locations of the electric pedestals. C.A. Nelson has a good start on the bridge, and should have it completed sometime in the next couple of weeks. But there is going to be quite a bit of work to do with clean-up in the spring and then get chips on the trail to the walk-in campsites, as well as the fire rings and picnic tables. The trail thru the new campground area to the comfort station is nearly done, but will need another load of chips to complete, in the spring as well. And the new campsites across the road also need fire rings and the picnic tables set in place, along with the numbered campsite identification ticket holders. After the above aspects are completed the park makeover is essentially complete, except the lower boardwalk to the lagoon bridge, which is still waiting on permits. This is an integral part of the park overall, and important to the granting requirements of the DNR, and was also covered in the Bremer Foundation grant. A good portion of this lumber has been purchased already.

Retirement

One of the reasons snow removal has been slowed is due to the fact I have been trying to use up my comp, personal and vacation time before January 31st, with allowing sometime to work with the new foreman hire. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Sowl
Town Foreman
Town of La Pointe